



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORES THE INTERSECTION OF ARTS, SPORTS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Artists and athletes share values in the advancement of social justice

East Lansing, MI – A raised fist, a dissected monument, and women protesting discrimination, *Resistance Training: Arts, Sports, and Civil Rights* explores the shared values between artists and athletes in the advancement of social justice-related issues. With its newest exhibition, opening on August 19, 2023, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) presents this timely dialogue while also asserting the role of the campus environment as a critical context for these discussions.

Throughout history artists have looked to athletes and other public figures as sources of inspiration, encoding moments of social change in the works of art they create. This exhibition brings together a group of contemporary artists who investigate the intersection of sports and the advancement of civil rights in the United States. From their own personal love of athletics

and relationship to sports, to the material and visual culture of athletics, and key moments in this subject's history, the artists employ a wide range of strategies to share their perspectives.

"This exhibition is inspired by the cultural force artists and athletes exert in shaping better and more equitable societies, specifically with an eye towards the advancement of social justice-related issues," explains Steven L. Bridges, curator of the exhibition and Interim Director of the MSU Broad Art Museum. "As we continue to navigate difficult conversations around civil rights in this country, this exhibition offers a unique opportunity to learn from the past while imagining ever-brighter futures."

The show is also a Spartan story. Athletics at Michigan State University has been celebrated over the years for its progressive stance when it comes to racial and social integration, and gender equality. However, these battles were often hard won, and the work continues today. In observance of the recent 50-year anniversary of the passing of Title IX legislation in this country (1972), and the approaching 60-year anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it is an important moment to highlight the many victories in this struggle for civil rights, specifically through the unique relationship between the arts and sports, while also learning from the past and the ongoing struggle for social justice.

In addition to work by Esmaa Mohamoud, Hank Willis Thomas, Wendy White, Glenn Kaino, Tyrrell Winston, and other notable artists, personal sports stories from current MSU student athletes will also be on display in the exhibition space, and visitors are invited to join the conversation, contributing their own stories to a collaborative pennant wall display.

The opening of *Resistance Training* will be celebrated as part of the Fall Opening Party on Friday, Sep. 8 from 6–10pm at the MSU Broad Art Museum. All ages are invited to explore the newest exhibitions while enjoying food, music, special guests, and activities. Tickets are free, and pre-registration is encouraged. Learn more at broadmuseum.msu.edu/events.

For those interested in further engaging with *Resistance Training*, related programs are scheduled throughout the exhibition's run:

Homecoming Performance: And Those Spartans Play Good Ball
Friday, Sep. 22, 2–6pm + Saturday, Sep. 23, 12–4pm

While in line for the parade or on your way to the game, stop by the MSU Broad Art Museum to experience a performance-installation work by artist mike durkin focused on the intersection between sports, art, and community building.

Exhibition Tour: Resistance Training
Sunday, Sep. 24, 1–2pm

What's your sport story? Join Interim Director and Senior Curator Steven L. Bridges for a special walkthrough of the exhibition.

(De)Tour: Game Changers

Thursday, Oct. 12, 6–7pm

Venture off the beaten path on a (de)tour as we discuss gender equality in athletics and the game changing legislation that empowered generations of women to shatter barriers and redefine the sporting landscape.

Power of Influence: The Intersection of Arts and Sports for Social Change

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6–7:30pm

Join esteemed alumni, sports leaders, artists, and MSU faculty as they gather in conversation around the potential of art and sport to become a powerful catalyst for social change.

This is not a tour: Resistance Training

Sunday, Dec. 3, 1–2pm

Take an unconventional look at the exhibition with this offbeat, interactive tour.

An Evening with Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf

January 2024, exact date to be confirmed

MSU Erickson Hall

In the early 1990s, professional basketball player Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf made a choice: he would no longer stand for the American national anthem when it came on before the game. Learn more about Abdul-Rauf's decision at this lecture and conversation. In partnership with the Muslim Studies Program and the MSU Libraries.

Artist Talk: Wendy White

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6–7pm

What do artists and athletes have in common? Gather with artist Wendy White as she draws parallels between the artist's studio and the field of play.

Broad Underground Film Series

Friday, Feb. 9, 7–9pm

Wells Hall B122

This Broad Underground event presents experimental and avant-garde film and video screenings programmed in response to *Resistance Training*. An ongoing collaboration between the MSU Broad Art Museum and the Film Studies Program, Department of English at Michigan State University.

Resistance Training: Arts, Sports, and Civil Rights (on view Aug. 19, 2023–Feb. 18, 2024) is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University and curated by Steven L. Bridges, Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, and Thaís Wenstrom, Curatorial Research and Administrative Assistant. Major funding for this exhibition is provided by the Alan and Rebecca Ross Endowed Exhibitions Fund, the MSU Federal Credit Union, and the Eli and Edythe Broad Endowed Exhibitions Fund, with additional support from Professor Charles Gliozzo.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) connects people with art through experiences that inspire curiosity and inquiry. Presenting exhibitions and programs that engage diverse communities around issues of local relevance and global significance, the MSU Broad Art Museum advances the university values of quality, inclusion, and connectivity. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift for its creation.

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: Wendy White, *If I Can, You Can*, 2016. Courtesy the artist.

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MSU Broad Art Museum representatives are available for interview.

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